

82D CONGRESS
2d Session

} HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES {

REPORT
No. 2313

CHANGING THE NAME OF THE BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION TO THE COLUMBIA POWER ADMIN- ISTRATION

JUNE 25, 1952.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BUCKLEY, from the Committee on Public Works, submitted
the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 6436]

The Committee on Public Works, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 6436) to change the name of the Bonneville Power Administration to the Columbia Power Administration, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The purpose of H. R. 6436 is to provide a more suitable designation for the agency known as the Bonneville Power Administration.

Congress expressly created the Office of the Bonneville Power Administrator in the Bonneville Project Act of August 20, 1937. "Bonneville Power Administration" is not a statutory name, but its use as the name of this agency was approved in 1940 by the Acting Secretary of the Interior, and Congress has made reference to the "Bonneville Power Administration" in several appropriation acts.

While "Booneville Power Administration" was an apt title in 1937 when its only work involved the distribution of power generated at the Bonneville Dam, the title now is misleading since the agency also distributes power from other dams in the Columbia Basin. These dams are all located in the Columbia River Basin in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana.

Naming of the agency handling the power from these dams for the Columbia Rivers seems most appropriate, and the committee recommends passage of the bill.

Report of the Secretary of the Interior, in support of the bill, is set forth below:

2 CHANGE NAME OF THE BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., June 3, 1952.

HON. CHARLES A. BUCKLEY,
*Chairman, Committee on Public Works,
House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. BUCKLEY: This is in response to your request for a report on H. R. 6436, a bill to change the name of the Bonneville Power Administration to the Columbia Power Administration.

The provisions of this bill have my wholehearted support. I earnestly recommend its passage, and feel, as do the Bonneville Power Administrator and his staff, that a change in the present misleading name of this agency and title of its Administrator is long overdue.

Congress expressly created the office of the Bonneville Power Administrator in the Bonneville Project Act (act of August 20, 1937, ch. 720, 50 Stat. 731). "Bonneville Power Administration" is not a statutory name, but its use as the name of this agency was approved in 1940 by the Acting Secretary of the Interior, and Congress has made reference to the "Bonneville Power Administration" in several appropriation acts.

"Bonneville Power Administrator" in 1937 was an apt title because at that time the power marketing duties of the office to which the title applied were limited to the output of the Bonneville project. Even then, however, it was anticipated that the electrical installation at Bonneville Dam would be interconnected with other generating plants in the region, and the Administrator's duties have since then been extended to marketing the output of generating plants at Grand Coulee Dam, McNary Dam, Chief Joseph Dam, Albeni Falls Dam, and several smaller Federal dams. These plants, as well as the transmission grid under the jurisdiction of Bonneville Power Administration are located in the Columbia River Basin in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana.

The Bonneville Power Administration last year supplied 58.7 percent of the power generated by the principal electric utilities in the Northwest Power Pool, which serves the above-mentioned four States. As of December 31, 1951, the Bonneville Power Administration supplied power at 261 points of delivery at locations scattered throughout the major part of the Columbia River Basin, encompassing more than 200,000 square miles. The above outline of the physical extent of the activities of the Bonneville Power Administration clearly shows that this agency simply has outgrown its present name.

I believe that the bill under consideration should be relatively noncontroversial, since its only purpose is to provide a more suitable designation for the office and agency involved. Misunderstanding as to the scope of the Bonneville Power Administration's operations has arisen, particularly in northwestern Montana, Idaho, and eastern Washington, as a result of the fact that this agency's name does not correspond to the tasks assigned to it. Minor confusion has resulted even in Oregon and western Washington, through failure to distinguish between Bonneville Power Administration activities and such activities of the Corps of Engineers as relate to operation of Bonneville Dam, a structure under the jurisdiction of the Corps. The terms "Bonneville Power Administration" and "Bonneville Power Administrator" are not only ill-fitted for continued use, but also tend to mislead persons who are not fully aware of the present extent of the responsibilities of the Bonneville Power Administrator. It follows, therefore, that the proposed change of name would be in the public interest.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

OSCAR L. CHAPMAN,
Secretary of the Interior.